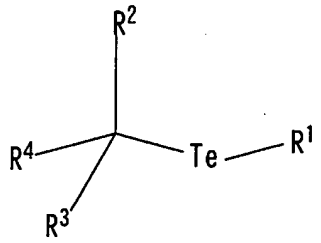
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing a living radical polymer ~~characterized in that~~ which comprises polymerizing a vinyl monomer ~~is polymerized with use~~ in the presence of a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound represented by the formula (2)



(1)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl or an aromatic heterocyclic group, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is aryl, substituted aryl, an aromatic heterocyclic group, acyl, oxycarbonyl or cyano

$(R^1Te)_2$ (2)

wherein R^1 is the same as above.

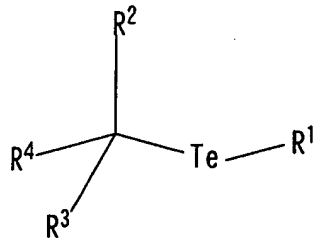
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein R^1 in the living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) is C_1-C_4 alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, furyl or thienyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or cyano.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein R^1 in the living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) is C_1-C_4 alkyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_4 alkyl, and R^4 is phenyl, substituted phenyl, methoxycarbonyl or ethoxycarbonyl.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein R^1 in the compound represented by the formula (2) is C_1-C_4 alkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, furyl or thienyl.

5. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein R^1 in the compound represented by the formula (2) is C_1-C_4 alkyl or phenyl.

6. (Currently amended) A living radical polymer obtained by polymerizing a vinyl monomer with use of a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound represented by the formula (2)



(1)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl or an aromatic heterocyclic group, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is aryl, substituted aryl, an aromatic heterocyclic group, acyl, oxycarbonyl or cyano

$(R^1Te)_2$ (2)

wherein R^1 is the same as above.

7. (Withdrawn) A mixture of a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound represented by the formula (2).

8. (Withdrawn) A mixture according to claim 7 wherein the living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) is an organotellurium compound represented by the formula (1) wherein R^1 is C_1-C_4 alkyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_4 alkyl, and R^4 is aryl, substituted aryl or oxycarbonyl, and the compound represented by the formula (2) is a compound wherein R^1 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or phenyl.

9. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a diblock copolymer wherein a compound of the formula (1) and a compound of the formula (2) are used when a homopolymer is prepared from the first of monomers and/or when the diblock copolymer is subsequently prepared.

10. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a triblock copolymer wherein a compound of the formula (1) and a compound of the formula (2) are used at least once when a homopolymer is prepared from the first of monomers, or when a diblock copolymer is subsequently prepared, or when the triblock copolymer is subsequently prepared.

11. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a diblock copolymer comprising mixing together an (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound of the formula (2) to prepare a poly(meth)acrylate, and subsequently mixing an aromatic unsaturated monomer with the product to obtain an (meth)acrylate-aromatic unsaturated monomer diblock copolymer.

12. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a triblock copolymer comprising mixing together an (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, a living radical polymerization initiator represented by the formula (1) and a compound of the formula (2) to prepare a poly(meth)acrylate, subsequently mixing an aromatic unsaturated monomer with the product to obtain an (meth)acrylate-aromatic unsaturated monomer block copolymers, and subsequently mixing an (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer or aromatic unsaturated monomer with the copolymer to obtain the triblock copolymer.

13. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

14. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

15. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.

16. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 2 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

17. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 3 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

18. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

19. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 5 wherein the vinyl monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylic acid ester monomer, aromatic unsaturated monomer (styrene type monomer), carbonyl-containing unsaturated monomer, (meth)acrylonitrile and (meth)acrylamide type monomer.

20. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 2 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

21. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 3 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

22. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

23. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 5 wherein the living radical polymer is a random copolymer.

24. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 2 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.

25. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 3 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.

26. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.

27. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 5 wherein the living radical polymer is a block copolymer.